



Agricenter
International

For Immediate Release

Agricenter International

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Agricenter International to Host SWSS Weed Contest

MEMPHIS, TN, July 30, 2014 – The Agricenter International will host the Southern Weed Science Society's annual weed contest on Wednesday, August 6. Universities from around the South will send teams of undergraduates and graduate students to compete for team and individual awards.

"This event is extremely valuable in the learning process of these students," says Dr. Bruce Kirksey, Director of Research for Agricenter International, Tennessee. "Every category in the weed contest will benefit these young men and women when they graduate and begin their careers."

Students will compete in five main areas, all related to weed science and agronomy. They will have to identify 50 weeds that can be displayed at any stage from seed to mature plant. Common names and scientific names will have to be used and spelled correctly. Students will also try to identify specific applied herbicides based on symptoms on various crops and weeds. Other categories involve calibration, problem solving and a mystery event.

"These young people will hopefully be able to identify a problem and then come up with a solution," Kirksey adds. "So many factors can affect the way plants grow. Not only do competing students have to know about weed science, they also have to know about insects, diseases, and interactions with the environment."

For nearly 30 years, Agricenter International, a not for profit organization, has been a hands-on showcase for how production agriculture provides a safe and abundant global food and fiber supply. The facility works yearly with approximately 30 agricultural companies that conduct research on cotton, soybeans, corn, rice and other crops grown on the Agricenter acreage. Agricenter provides a close-up look at production agriculture to schoolchildren, area residents and one million yearly visitors from across the country and around the world. For more information on Agricenter International, go to www.agricenter.org

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